

App. No. 09/980,109
Office Action Dated May 8, 2006

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REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 4, 11, and 24 are hereby amended.

Claims 1-11 and 20-24 were rejected as being indefinite. Claims 1, 4, 11, and 24 are amended to address the concerns of the Examiner. Applicants submit that claims 2 and 3 further define the formation of the unit recording area recited in claim 1 and are in proper form. Favorable reconsideration of claims 1-11 and 20-24 is requested.

Claims 1-10, 13, and 20-23 were rejected as being anticipated by Ohno (US 6,567,367). This rejection is moot per the enclosed verified translation of the priority application JP 11-152469, filed May 31, 1999, which antedates the effective prior art date of the Ohno US patent, as well as the publication date of the foreign applications to which the Ohno US claims priority. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of the reference.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)455-3804.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: August 3, 2006



DPM:mfe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Douglas P. Mueller", written over a horizontal line.

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